

# The Brooklyn Paper

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## Next stop: Coney

### City picks developer to rehab Island

By Jotham Sederstrom  
The Brooklyn Papers

Lately it's as if Brooklyn was the "straight guy" to the city and state's "queer eye."

Skyline. A basketball arena may soon host the Nets in Prospect Heights. And the city this week took a major step in restoring Coney Island to its former seaside glory.

Davis Brody & Bond, a Manhattan-based architectural firm responsible for sweeping expansion plans in Bedford-Stuyvesant and at Polytechnic University, was tapped Tuesday to submit a large-scale plan to redevelop the home of the world famous Cyclone roller-coaster, the Brooklyn Cyclones minor league baseball team, and the recently renovated Parachute Jump.

The design team also includes the accounting firm of Ernst & Young.

The recommendation by the Coney Island Development Corporation capped a lengthy selection process in which 21 prospective design teams were whittled to one in

### NOT JUST NETS THE NEW BROOKLYN

less than a month. The selection now moves to the Economic Development Corporation, which will negotiate a contractual agreement with the design team, according to a spokeswoman for the EDC, who said a master plan could be ready by August.

When completed, the plan will extend to the area bounded by Neptune Avenue to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the south, Ocean Parkway to the east, and West 37th Street—the redevelopment bug that's already infected much of northern Brooklyn since last year.

The EDC created the 13-member Coney Island Development Corporation last September to shepherd a financial plan and design. "It definitely has to be a public-private endeavor," said EDC spokeswoman Janet Patterson, who said the initial 100-page proposals submitted by each group didn't outline specific plans. "The plan will build on

existing business space and look to develop private property. The city, of course, can't pay for the whole thing, that's the reason for putting together the whole plan."

It would also be a continuation of new construction that already includes the \$39 million, publicly financed Keyspan Park, where the Brooklyn Cyclones play, and the soon-to-be completed, \$240 million Stillwell Avenue train station, the major subway link from Coney Island to the rest of the city.

Community Board 13 District Manager Chuck Reichenbach, a member of the group, said that nearly all of the 21 proposals included

mention of a boardwalk-side ferry service, likely at the old Iron Pier behind Keyspan Park near Stillwell Avenue.

"The dream is this, to perhaps develop a ferry plan from Lower Manhattan to Coney Island," said Reichenbach. "To me, it's an interesting concept because very often you have to take a boat to just about every world-class city. Think about Venice."

But Brooklyn's "Venice" has 27-story public housing buildings and more than 27 acres of vacant property.

Drawing from an existing plan by the Coney Island-based Astella Development Corporation, which focuses primarily on entertainment, Davis Brody & Bond is expected to reveal a master plan that would swing widely from residential and commercial development to

amusement and transportation.

Despite Borough President Marty Markowitz's public enthusiasm over a possible resurrection of the Parachute Jump as an amusement park ride, no specifics have surfaced as to how that 262-foot structure would be used in the plan. Standing dormant since 1968, Markowitz sparked a \$5 million restoration project for the city landmark, still Coney Island's tallest structure.

"My dream is to get that Parachute Jump up and working again," Markowitz said at a press luncheon at Borough Hall on Wednesday. "Sadly, for many years Coney Island had deteriorated, but what's happening now gives every indication that it's coming back."

See CONEY on page 4



Coney Island's historic Parachute Jump hasn't been operational since the 1960s.

## EXCLUSIVE 'TGIF' TO REPLACE GAGE & TOLLNER

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

Say goodbye to rack of lamb and lobster Newburg, and say hello to "steak on a stick."

After 125 years of business in Downtown Brooklyn, Gage & Tollner, one of the city's oldest restaurant's and a Brooklyn icon, closed its revolving door for good on Valentine's Day. And now, according to sources, the national restaurant chain T.G.I. Fridays, famed for its appetizers of potato skins and saucy chicken wings has its eye on the landmark location on the Fulton Mall at 372 Fulton St.

Gage & Tollner was a throwback, decorated with such details as brass hooks above each table where gentlemen from a bygone era might have hung their top hats, as well as arched mirrors, red velvet fabric and gas-it brass chandeliers.

Restaurateurs Charles Gage and Eugene Tollner opened the eatery down the block, at 302 Fulton St., in 1879, and moved to the current location 13 years later.

Since then, ownership has changed hands half a dozen times.

Because the building has city landmark status for both its interior and exterior, any new business will be required to maintain the historic details.

New building owner Joe Jemal, a principle of Manhattan's ISI Realty, who closed on the four-story building just a few weeks ago, said he would be making an official announcement about the lease in the next two weeks.

A spokesman for T.G.I. Friday's did not return calls seeking comment.

"The last thing anybody wanted was the place to gather cobwebs," said Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce President Kenneth Adams when asked about the chain moving into the landmark.

"There are not a lot of restaurants that are not regional chains that can afford those rents," Adams said, noting that space on Fulton Mall goes for upwards of \$100 a square foot.

With fewer customers visiting the upscale relic, the previous owner, Joe Chirco, who also owned the Marco Polo restaurant on Court Street, said he could no longer keep the business going.

The restaurant not being readily accessible to cars kept many tourists away from the otherwise deserted area at night, according to Adams, who said he hopes to see more nightlife along that part of Fulton Street.

Asked how he felt about T.G.I. Friday's replacing the beloved Gage & Tollner, Borough President Marty Markowitz said simply, "It wasn't so beloved. If it was beloved, it wouldn't have had to close."

Markowitz added that Friday's "would attract younger customers who would be more likely to walk to the restaurant," noting the tough parking and traffic situations near Fulton Mall.

"I would hope any new user would understand the architectural significance features and retain them," said Simon Bankoff, executive director of the Historic Districts Council, a non-profit preservation organization.

See FRIDAYS on page 14

## Oh D'Mai

New urban spa in Park Slope finds inspiration from Indonesia

Co-owner Mark Abbonizio in the hall of his new Fifth Avenue retreat, D'Mai Urban Spa, featuring fresh flowers, Indonesian flourishes and sleek design.

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

As the last episode of "Sex and the City" flickered across TV screens everywhere Sunday, I felt obliged to pay homage by indulging in some sort of single-girl frivolity.

My meager bank account, not to mention lack of grace, ruled out a pair of \$400 Manolo Blahnik heels. A pounding headache nixed midday Cop-mopolitans. As for an illicit romp with a partner whose name would quickly be reduced to a pithy one syllable sobriquet—let's just say my mother reads this paper.

So it was off to the spa.

In some places, getting facials can be an anxiety-ridden experience, with snotty staff and alien

oil treatments.

But inside Fifth Avenue's D'Mai Urban Spa, the newest addition to Park Slope, all that anxiety is ex-

foliated away.

Owners Daniella Stromberg and Mark Abbonizio have converted a long-abandoned fish store into a 3,000-square-foot Zen pleasure den dotted with flowering quince tree branches and delicate orchids that offers an array of treatments ranging from body polishes (\$100) to hot stone massages (\$55-\$125).

After traveling the spas of the world, Stromberg fell in love with the spas of Indonesia and decided to bring some of the tradition and philosophy (and furniture!) back home.

The effect is tastefully simple, with wood-slatted walkways, black rocks and delicate orchids. (Think West Elm meets yoga retreat.)

After slipping into a white cotton robe, I'm met by my aesthetician Marni in one of the spa's

See D'MAI on page 13

## With a 'Passion'

Lori Adler, who had just attended an Ash Wednesday service and has a mark of ash on her forehead, shows the four tickets she purchased for a later showing of "The Passion of the Christ" at the Pavilion Theater on Prospect Park West at 15th Street in Park Slope on Wednesday. Adler, an eighth-grade teacher at Holy Name of Jesus school in Park Slope, was planning to see the movie Friday with her family before she takes her class of 28 students to see a matinee on March 5. The controversial Mel Gibson movie opened at 2,800 theaters around the country on Ash Wednesday. See story on page 14.

## Sources: Warehouse fire that hurt 10 is 'suspicious'

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

A four-alarm warehouse fire in Vinegar Hill that raged for more than 12 hours and sent several area firefighters to the hospital may have been intentionally set, according to authorities.

The Feb. 18 fire on Water Street between Bridge and Gold streets started at 3:30 a.m. and burned until after 4 p.m. The morning blaze sent 10 firefighters to the hospital with smoke inhalation and burn-related injuries and left a fire chief with burns to his head.

Inspector Christopher Rising, commanding officer of the 84th Police

Precinct, told The Brooklyn Papers the fire was being investigated as "a suspicious fire," and Fire Department sources also said the fire was being "looked at as suspicious."

Fire Department spokesman David Billig would only say that the fire is under investigation.

The largely vacant warehouse at 247 Water St. in Vinegar Hill—just east of DUMBO and near the Manhattan Bridge and Brooklyn Navy Yard—was occupied by two commercial tenants at the time of the fire. No one was in the building during the fire.

Joshua Gutman, who is among the largest property owners in DUMBO and Vinegar Hill, purchased 247 Water St. in 1995.

In December, Gutman submitted an application to rezone the more than 100-year-old property, along with four neighboring sites, for residential use. The building is zoned for manufacturing.

The Land Use committee of Community Board 2 voted to deny the zoning change at its monthly meeting on Jan. 21, citing the need to maintain manufacturing in the area. Gutman withdrew the application on Feb. 10.

Gutman spokeswoman Leah Hollender declined to comment on the fire or to identify the building's tenants.

There are 40 open violations against 247 Water St. dating back to

1981 and ranging from construction violations to zoning infractions to not filing annual elevator reports, said Department of Buildings spokeswoman Ilyse Fink.

"We are anxious to learn the cause of the fire," said Nancy Webster, president of the DUMBO Neighborhood Association. She said her organization has reached out to both Councilman David Yassky and the 84th Precinct to inquire about the investigation into the fire.

Gutman gained a degree of notoriety in December 2000 when tenants of 247 and the adjoining 253 Water St. were evicted in a citywide sweep of buildings with code viola-

See FIRE on page 14

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"The president's effort to have the Constitution amended to prohibit gay marriage is very, very unfortunate and wrongheaded," Spitzer said to a loud round of applause.

For more information about the meeting, contact CB2 at (718) 596-5410. —Kolbert

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# Phony broker scams woman out of deposit

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

Finding an apartment in New York City is certainly no easy task. The real brokers can be hard enough to deal with, let alone men with keys masquerading as them.

Such was the case of a 28-year-old woman who was approached by a man who offered to show her an apartment on 11th Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues.

The apartment-seeker went to see the place, which at the time was being painted by contractors, at 2 pm on Feb. 19.

When the woman decided it was exactly what she wanted, she handed over \$1,150 — the first month's rent — to the man she told police seemed "trustworthy."

In exchange, the phony broker turned over a pair of keys and several phone numbers where he supposedly could be reached.

But the so-called-broker didn't actually own the apartment or represent the owner.

In fact, the property was not even up for rent.

## 78 Precinct Blotter

### Wakes 'host'

A woman sleeping on her couch was in for a shock when she opened her eyes in the early morning hours of Feb. 20 to find a man skulking around her apartment.

The woman, 54, who was in her apartment on Seventh Avenue at Carroll Street, at 4:30 am, let out a yelp, scaring the intruder, who quickly fled.

But the bandit, who was wearing a brown jacket, took \$40 with him.

The front door may have been left unlocked, police said.

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was in for an unpleasant surprise this week when she parked her SUV on President Street.

At 6:30 pm, on Feb. 21, the 27-year-old motorist parallel-parked her way into a spot near Fourth Avenue.

But when she returned to fetch the car at noon the next day all that was left was a pile of glass.

In addition to the 1991 Ford Explorer, the bandits got away with a child's car seat, a pack of 200 blank CDs, a Canon camera valued at \$1,000 and a bag of clothing, police said.

**Unhappy return**  
Ah, there's nothing like returning to your own home after a vacation.

Unless, that is, you find your home in complete disarray and several of your belongings missing.

That was the case for a man on 14th Street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues, who returned home on Feb.

20, at 1 am, after being away for two days to discover his apartment had been burglarized.

The stolen items included a violin valued at \$700, an electric guitar, a VCR, \$150 in cash, two dresses and a pair of gold hoop earrings.

The basement window of the house had been left open, police said.

### 11th St. burglary

A woman returning home to her Third Avenue apartment near 11th Street was in for a surprise this week.

When the 27-year-old resident got to the apartment, at 10:30 am on Feb. 20, she found the place completely ransacked and her \$1,000 Dell laptop missing, police said.

**Rationalize this**  
It could have been the whole car.

A motorist who parked his car on Sixth Avenue at Ninth Street, at 9:45 pm on Feb. 21, returned the next day, at 2:15 pm, to find the headlights missing.

The victim, 48, valued the headlights of his white 1999 Acura at \$2,000.

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# Lee named Cyclones manager

By Vince DiMiceli  
The Brooklyn Papers

The Cyclones are welcoming "Mr. Baseball."

Or at least a bit player in it. Leon Lee, a veteran of 10 seasons in Japan and the technical director for the 1992 Tom Selleck flick "Mr. Baseball" — in which Lee also had a bit part — will take over as manager of the Brooklyn Cyclones this summer.

Lee, who replaces Tim Teufel, brings more than 20 years of experience as a player, coach, manager and scout. He spent six years (1971-1977) as a player in the St. Louis Cardinals' farm system, before playing in Japan. In 1978, when he was 25, Lee signed with the Lotte Orions, beginning a 10-year career in which he also played with the Yokohama Taiyo Whales and the Yakult Swallows. In Japan, Lee compiled a .308 batting average with 268 home runs and 884 RBIs. In 1980, his best all-around season, he hit .340 with 41



Leon Lee

home runs and 116 RBIs for Lotte.

After retiring in 1987, Lee was an independent baseball instructor, authored a bilingual hitting journal in Japan, and served as technical director for the film, in which Selleck portrays an American baseball player who signs on to play in Japan.

Lee joined the Chicago Cubs organization in 1997, and spent time as both a triple-A hitting coach and a Pacific Rim scout.

Last season, he managed Japan's Orix Blue Wave.

Teufel last year led the Clones to a 47-28 record, best in the New York-Penn League's McNamara Division. The team advanced to the championship round where they were swept by the Williamsport Crosscutters 2-0. Teufel has since left the Mets organization.

Last year's pitching coach, Hector Berrios, and hitting coach, Donovan Mitchell, will be returning.

"We are thrilled to have someone with Leon's experience in the organization," said Mets GM Jim Duquette. "It is

an added benefit to have him working with some of our younger players in Brooklyn, in a high-intensity atmosphere."

Lee, who lives in Sacramento, Calif., also has strong family ties to the major leagues. His son, Derrek, was a Gold Glove winner for the World Series champion Florida Marlins last year, before being traded to the Cubs during the off-season.

His brother, Leron, played in the majors from 1969-1976 for St. Louis, San Diego, Cleveland and Los Angeles. The brothers were also teammates in Lotte.

Berrios and Mitchell are both New Yorkers. Berrios grew up in the Bronx, where he was an All-City pitcher and outfielder for James Monroe High School in 1979. The 2004 season will be Hector's 20th in professional baseball.

He now resides in New Jersey. Mitchell played and coached at Alexander Hamilton High School in Elmsford, N.Y., before becoming an All-Conference player for the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He played for seven years in the Houston Astros farm system, and has been a coach or front-office executive

with the Mets since 1999. He now resides in Dobbs Ferry.

The Brooklyn Cyclones are a single-A affiliate of the New York Mets. The team plays at KeySpan Park, a 7,500-seat stadium in Coney Island.

The Cyclones open the 2004 season on the road on Friday, June 18, against the Williamsport Crosscutters.

The home opener will be on Tuesday, June 22, at 7 p.m., against the Hudson Valley Renegades.

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## Tyson cops plea over hotel fight

By Michael Weissenstein  
Associated Press

Ex-heavyweight champion Mike Tyson avoided a return to jail Thursday by pleading guilty to disorderly conduct over an early morning brawl with two men outside the Downtown Brooklyn Marriott Hotel last year.

"We are extremely pleased that the DA's office and Mike Tyson have agreed on a fair and equitable resolution of this matter," said Tyson's attorney, Mel Sachs.

The agreement followed hours of negotiations between Sachs and the district attorney's office. Tyson, who was at the Brooklyn courthouse during the talks, appeared calm and relaxed as he flipped through a catalogue of boxing memorabilia or read a newspaper.

Under the agreement, Tyson will perform 100 hours of community service, "lecturing, teaching and instructing children on boxing," Sachs said. Once that is completed, other charges against Tyson will be dropped.

Tyson, who was initially charged with assault, harassment and disorderly conduct, had faced up to a year in jail if convicted.

Tyson, 37, was arrested after a 5:30 a.m. brawl with Samuel Velez and Nestor Alvarez-Ramos, who allegedly threatened him last June outside the New York Marriott Brooklyn on Adams Street while the boxer awaited a ride to the airport.

The two men warned Tyson that they were armed, according to lawyers on both sides of the case, with one telling Tyson, "You've got fists, we've got guns."

Tyson's fists were enough against the pair, who



Mike Tyson

were actually unarmed.

A hotel security videotape captured the ex-heavyweight champion knocking one of the men into a reception stand and punching the other before passing to remove his coat, authorities said.

After he re-launched the attack, Tyson chased one of the men around the hotel check-in desk and landed additional blows.

The case was the latest legal travail for Tyson, who was locked up in 1992 for raping a Miss Black America contestant and again in 1999 for assaulting two Maryland motorists. His first arrest, for purse snatching, came when he was 12.

The Brooklyn native's bizarre resume also includes gnawing on the ear of boxer Evander Holyfield during a bout and biting the leg of heavyweight Lennox Lewis during a news conference.

Tyson hasn't fought in a year, since knocking out Clifford Etienne in 49 seconds. In December, a Brooklyn judge rejected Tyson's bid to have the case thrown out and ordered him to go on trial. Attorneys for Tyson had argued that he was acting in self-defense when he battered the pair.

Velez and Alvarez-Ramos are awaiting trial on charges of menacing Tyson before the fighting began.

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# CITY'S TRAFFIC MEETING BRINGS 'BIG YELLOW TAXI'

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

A public hearing on the rezoning of Downtown Brooklyn turned into a sing-along at Borough Hall this week as a Prospect Heights resident strapped on a guitar and headed to the microphone to croon her displeasure about the looming changes.

Turning to '70s songbird Joni Mitchell, musician Carolyn Schwartz belted out "Big Yellow Taxi" — whose chorus includes the lyrics "They paved paradise, put up a parking lot" — while many of the 100 other attendees clapped, and chimed in at the chorus.

"Don't take my home," Schwartz pleaded at the end of the song.

Schwartz, a professional musician, is just one of several hundred

people whose homes will be condemned if developer Bruce Ratner is successful in his bid to construct a 24-acre residential and commercial project centered around a professional basketball arena at the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues.

Monday's meeting, however, was about the less publicized Downtown Brooklyn Plan, a complex rezoning of 60 blocks to make way for office and residential towers and turn downtown into a bustling, 24-7 hub.

That plan is currently making its way through the city's seven-month land use review process. Along with the plan, the city has drafted a 700-plus page environmental impact statement.

But that was drafted before Ratner announced his \$300 million deal to purchase the New Jersey Nets and bring them to Brooklyn.

Now the city is drafting a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS), the scope of which was the topic of discussion at Monday's meeting.

"The purpose of this SEIS is to incorporate the overall arena project," Hardy Adasko, chairman of the city Economic Development Corporation, said at the meeting. "When I refer to the arena throughout this, I'm referring to the arena plus the commercial development, plus the housing development, plus the open space, plus the street changes."

The arena project, if it proceeds, would have to go through its own environmental review process although not the city's more strenuous Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP).

The widening of Flatbush Avenue between Atlantic Avenue and Dean Street to make way for arena

traffic concerned many of the speakers Monday night.

As part of the plan, Flatbush Avenue would be widened by 10 feet along that two-block stretch.

The avenue widening is indicated only in tiny print on just one rendering in the arena proposal and not mentioned in the text of the plans.

Responding to numerous e-mails and faxes that circulated before the meeting — which labeled the street widening as the major topic of discussion for Monday's meeting — Adasko pointed out that it was just one component of the arena project and not a proposal put forth by the city.

While most speakers used the meeting as an opportunity to blast the arena proposal, a few raised specific traffic and transportation concerns they would like to see addressed in the environmental review.

"Why shouldn't Brooklyn get the same as Manhattan?" asked traffic engineer Brian Ketchum, executive director of Community Consulting Services.

"The proposed development, the real development, is four times the size of the World Trade Center, the same size as the Hudson Yards," Ketchum said, referring to the city's plan to build a massive New York Jets football stadium over rail yards on Manhattan's West Side.

"Why does Manhattan get billions of dollars of new infrastructure and Brooklyn gets a parking garage, and, maybe, a new stairway to its subway?" Ketchum asked.

The traffic engineer is calling on the city to review the traffic and transportation impacts of the Downtown Plan in conjunction with the numerous other developments going on in or proposed for the area including the arena plan.

Responding to the loss of 21,000 city jobs to New Jersey in the 1990s, the Bloomberg administration previewed the Downtown Brooklyn Plan last April.

The mayor pledged to fund \$100 million in infrastructure improvements and construction over the next 10 years, but the project would still be largely dependent on market conditions and the ability to lure business and developers.

As part of the Downtown Brooklyn Plan, the government would condemn seven acres of private land including 130 residential units, 100 businesses and the 57-year-old Institute of Design and Construction.

Sue Wolfe, a real estate broker and president of the Boerum Hill Association, questioned the city's ability to woo corporate tenants to Brooklyn and asked planners to go back to the drawing boards.

Proponents of the plan, including

Darnell Canada, president of Brooklyn United for Innovative Development (BUILD), urged the city to create jobs for local residents.

Ratner's plan for the Atlantic Yards, which dovetails with the Downtown Plan to the south, is dependent on the state's condemnation of more than three square blocks of privately owned land, a portion of which would be used to build the arena.

The Atlantic Yards and Downtown plans overlap at the intersection of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues.

Written comments on the SEIS for the Downtown Brooklyn Plan will be accepted until March 4 and can be sent to Hardy Adasko, Senior Vice President of Planning, NYC Economic Development Corporation, 110 Williams Street, New York, NY 10038.

## City commits Bridge Park funds

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn Bridge Park, the 70-acre commercial and recreational development along the Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO waterfront, moved one step closer to reality this week when the city reached an agreement to turn over \$65 million for design and construction costs.

"This is huge," said Sharon Soons, a spokeswoman for the Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition, an independent nonprofit group of 60 organizations that

has been involved with the project's planning for almost 15 years.

The difference between the city's years-old pledge of the money and what was announced this week is that the city has now signed an agreement that enables the money to flow from the city budget to Brooklyn Bridge Park, said Economic Development Corporation spokeswoman Janet Patterson. Construction is slated for completion within a decade.

In December, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey announced an agreement to kick in \$85 million in construction costs and agreed to turn over piers 1, 2, 3 and 5, between Old Fulton

Street and Atlantic Avenue once an environmental impact statement is completed.

The 1.3-mile development, stretching from Joy Street near the Manhattan Bridge to Atlantic Avenue, is part of a far-reaching plan to transform a stretch of the formerly industrial and maritime Brooklyn waterfront. In September, a small segment of the park opened in DUMBO.

Operation and maintenance costs of the project's park component will be funded in part by revenue generated from commercial properties associated with the project.

Developer Shapira Boyenlgreen will be converting the vacant Empire Stores, a

row of Civil War-era brick warehouses fronting Empire-Fulton Ferry park and Water Street between Main and Dock streets, into a Chelsea Market-like commercial complex.

Designed for general storage and distribution of spices, tobacco and coffee arriving from around the world, the complex is slated to house a mix of galleries and stores.

"The public good that Brooklyn Bridge Park provides and has potential to provide is worth every penny of the city's support," said Evan Thies, a spokesman for City Councilman David Yassky, whose district includes a portion of the site.

## Marty claims half of Ratner houses will be 'moderate'

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

How many people will be able to afford the soaring Frank Gehry-designed apartment buildings proposed for Prospect Heights as part of developer Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards plan? Maybe more than people think, according to the plan's biggest political supporter, Borough President Marty Markowitz.

At a Borough Hall luncheon with reporters Wednesday, Markowitz said Ratner has pledged to him that half of the 4,500 planned units would be for "middle to moderate" income tenants.

While "moderate income" for a family in New York City is defined as \$50,240 to \$62,800 a year, a spokesman for Markowitz later said the borough president had not been using the technical definition.

"What Marty defines as affordable is what firefighters, teachers, nurses, police officers, construction workers, reporters — a place they can afford," Markowitz spokeswoman Sharon Toomer said after the announcement.

Despite Markowitz's announcement, Ratner has remained mum on just how much of the residential component would be affordable, market rate or luxury housing.

Asked about Markowitz's remarks, Ratner

spokesman Joe Deplasio declined to comment on specific percentages but said the developer was "completely committed to maximizing the number of affordable- and moderate-income units."

The \$2.5 billion Atlantic Yards development is proposed for a 24-acre site stretching from the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush Avenues over to Vanderbilt Avenue in Prospect Heights.

The plan also includes a 19,000-seat professional basketball arena — to accommodate Ratner's planned move of his New Jersey Nets to Brooklyn — flanked by soaring office towers and 13 residential towers, some reaching 450 feet.

Ratner purchased the Nets last month for \$300 million.

"We are concerned about creating as much affordability as possible for a wide range of incomes including low and very low," said Steve Aronson, executive director of the Pratt Area Community Council, a housing and economic development organization.

As part of the plan, roughly 70 homes would need to be condemned, displacing hundreds of residents.

Markowitz began his career in public service as a tenants rights activist.

"I don't want to create housing just for people out of Brooklyn to move to Brooklyn," Markowitz said this week.

**The Brooklyn Papers**

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## CONEY ISLAND...

Continued from page 1

Davis Brody & Young is the architectural firm behind both the glass-sheathed addition two years ago to the 110-year-old Harvard Club, on West 44th Street at Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, and Medgar Evers College High School in Crown Heights. Their vision for Polytechnic University included the addition of 20- and eight-story buildings in Downtown Brooklyn, one a residential hall and the other an administrative building housing a multipurpose gym.

Max Brand, a lead architect on the plans, referred press inquiries to Charles Shorter, an advisor with Ernst & Young. At press time, Shorter had not returned calls seeking comment.

"We were looking for the best balance between two kinds of fundamental qualities," said Kenneth Adams, president of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Coney Island Land Development Corporation.

"We were looking for a real-estate plan. But we also wanted a group that could bring a world-class, imaginative design to Coney Island."

Over the next several months, said Patterson, the 13-member CIDC will begin holding public meetings, most-



Coney Island's famous Wonder Wheel, as seen from a passing boat on the Atlantic Ocean.

ly strong economic and real estate plan. But we also wanted a group that could bring a world-class, imaginative design to Coney Island."

Over the next several months, said Patterson, the 13-member CIDC will begin holding public meetings, most-

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# Families of Slope 'Angels' to sue city and trucking firm

By Jotham Sederstrom  
The Brooklyn Papers

The families of two fifth-graders killed while crossing a heavily trafficked Park Slope intersection will sue the city and the driver of the truck that hit them for damages totaling \$180 million, a lawyer handling the case said this week.

The PS 124 students, Juan Estrada, 10, and Victor Flores, 11, were hit by the landscaping truck on Feb. 9. The pals, both known as "Angels" to their families and friends, were less than a block from their homes on opposite sides of Ninth Street when the 10-wheeler pulled them under its wheels while turning right onto Third Avenue. Both the driver and the two boys had the green light.

The driver, who could not be seen, was not charged with any crime in the tragic accident.

But relatives of the two victims, their friends and neighbors in the neighborhood have called on the city to take measures to tame the dangerous intersection, which the Department of Transportation identified as a danger last summer.

"The city has to understand that this isn't your ordinary trip-and-fall case," said Eric Lamonsoff, the Long Island-based attorney representing both families. "This rises to a different level because for very little money they could have remedied the problems on that corner and saved two kids' lives. With that in mind, these numbers are paltry."

The Estrada and Flores families are seeking \$45 million each in damages from the city, according to notices of claims received by the city comptroller's office Wednesday.

Victoria Hernandez and Gabriela Cortes are named as co-administrators in one claim for Victor, Juan's parents. Emma Ortega and Juan Estrada, are listed in another, in addition to Santiago Tapia, a family friend, who is also named as a co-administrator of



Victoria Flores (left), Ray Flores and Javier Flores grieve with the Rev. Manuel Salgado at accident site.

the boy's estate.

As of Thursday, the papers had not yet been received by the city Law Department, which handle all legal matters for the city.

"The city does not have the legal papers, yet it certainly was a tragic case and we'll be looking at papers as soon as we receive them," said Law Department spokeswoman Kate Ahlers.

In addition, the Estrada and Flores families will each file \$45 million lawsuits alleging negligence against the trucking company, Olson's Creative Landscaping, and the truck driver, John Olson, according to Lamonsoff.

Olson was traveling on designated truck routes when he fatally struck the two boys. The company for which he drives received a pair of summonses because the vehicle was overweight and one each for faulty windshield wipers and bald tires.

Messages left by The Brooklyn Papers on Olson's telephone answering machine were not returned.

A point of contention in the suits against the city will be whether the accident could have been prevented by installing safety measures that were recommended in a study commissioned by the city Transportation Department a year ago but never implemented.

Without referring to it by name the claim mentions the traffic-calming study, which labeled the intersection of Third Avenue and Ninth Street as dangerous.

"The accident happened by reason of the negligence and carelessness of the city of New York ... in failing to maintain the intersecting roadways and highways at the location so that

they were reasonably safe for persons using them [and] determining that the location requiring [sic] redesign but in failing to conduct the changes," reads the notice against the city.

The DOT-commissioned traffic-calming study recommended last June that extended sidewalks, or neck-downs, be placed on the now deadly intersection in tandem with delayed traffic signals. Those changes were never made and at a public hearing at Borough Hall last year, DOT officials said most would be put on hold until 2009 because of the city's budget crisis.

Earlier this month, a DOT spokesman said in a prepared statement that many of the recommendations had been studied but could not have been implemented within such a short timeframe.

"While this report is not officially final, we chose not to wait, and have already implemented dozens of the recommendations, and we are working on other initiatives identified in the study," DOT spokesman Tom Cocola said in the Feb. 12

statement. "But many of these suggestions, such as neck-downs, require extensive geometric engineering review and then substantial capital work — and it would be disingenuous for anyone to suggest that this work could have been done already."

"However, we told our engineers to immediately review the Ninth Street corridor and the Third Avenue corridor," he added.

As Lamonsoff and his assistants began to review the 130-page, \$1.2 million study this week, transportation and police officials announced a pair of safety measures to be implemented near the intersection.

A police source said on Thursday that the 78th Precinct would be adding a crossing guard on Third Avenue at Ninth Street in March.

And Transportation Department officials on Wednesday announced a far-reaching plan to tackle problems on dangerous intersections near 150 schools across the city. The \$1.9 million study began two years ago, DOT officials said.

## Baby delivered outside Lutheran

By Jotham Sederstrom  
The Brooklyn Papers

A group of physicians and an unflinching security guard formed an unlikely team last Thursday after a young lady driver tore through the parking lot of a local hospital en route to its labor unit.

But the driver wasn't simply delivering his fare. While knuckles against the wheel, he was steering his wife to Lutheran Medical Center, in Sunset Park, where she expected to deliver their sixth child.

Problem was, the newborn wanted to be let out sooner than expected — curbside, in fact.

By morning's end the Borough Park couple,

who wish to remain anonymous, gave birth to a six-pound, 18-inch baby boy in the backseat of the husband's black limo cab.

Raul Quirindongo, a security guard since 1968 at the hospital on 55th Street at Second Avenue, said he was the first to notice the car pull up to the entrance. The 63-year-old said he immediately called a "Code Pink" when the father-to-be explained that his wife was pregnant. "For baby problems," the security guard explained.

That did the trick. Physician's assistant Carl Michel and Dr. Kathleen Caridi rushed from Lutheran's Radiation Oncology department, which because of its proximity to the parking lot had also seen its hallways emptied for emergency births in 1997 and 2000.

Caridi, who has worked at the hospital for 25 years, witnessed both of those births. As a result, Quirindongo said that years ago a kit was placed in a front office.

Asked what was included in such a kit, he said he hoped to find out. "I don't know what they put in there," he said. "I don't want to know what's in there."

On her way to the parking lot, Caridi grabbed clean sheets and gloves and called for a stretcher and an obstetrician-gynecologist. But most of the work had already been done by the time they reached the car.

"The baby was practically outside of the cavity already," Michel said of the curbside attraction that gave pregnant pause to several passersby in the parking lot. "Kathy was just in time to pull the feet out of the womb."

Itina Karban, a physician at the Shore Road Family Health Center, saw the delivery as she was passing through the main lobby. Within seconds, she too was helping cut the umbilical cord.

"It really was a beautiful sight," said Karban, "everybody partnering together to make sure the family and baby were as comfortable as possible, even though they were in the backseat of a car."

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### **Exploring New Technologies**

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

February 28, 2004



Face first: Aesthetician Sorala Barbosa (left) administers a facial to client Rita Boyant at Nu Yu Day Spa in Clinton Hill. At top, fresh orchids are an integral part of the decor at D'Mai Urban Spa.

# SPA

## Report 2004

**G**O Brooklyn's fourth annual Brooklyn Spa Report comes on the heels of one of the harshest winters in recent memory, leaving us exhausted, with our shoulders hunched up and our skin dried out. Turn to spas for treatments that can relieve all that ails you. They can boost your spirit, melt away your muscle tension and return the moisture to your skin.

New spas are continuing to spring up throughout the borough: **Nu Yu Day Spa** (this page) opened in Clinton Hill with a mission to pamper

and beautify its neighbors; **D'Mai Urban Spa**, which utilizes celebrity-beloved products, opened its Indonesian-themed spa in Park Slope (front page); and **InnerSpree Day Spa** in Williamsburg is proving that spas aren't just for quiet reflection anymore with its Sunday spa parties (page 13).

Established spas continue to heal and nurture Brooklynites in new ways. **Pilo Arts Day Spa and Salon** offers effective treatments to heal your most winter-buffed extremities (page 11) and **Cynergy Spa** in Fort Greene is teaming up with

**Tendrils** to create a spa that coo-les hair, too (page 13).

Many Brooklyn salons and specialty stores sell products to help you keep up your spa therapies, economically, at home. See our **Top 10 List** on page 8. Finally, turn to page 12 for our **Spa Directory**, which also lists holistic therapy centers and boutiques.

Remember, being stressed is a choice. Instead, we hope you'll experience for yourself the world of treatments available to you through **Spa Report 2004**.

— Lisa J. Curtis, *GO Brooklyn* Editor

## Whole Nu Yu

Friends open new Clinton Hill spa with a passion for beauty & healing

By Lisa J. Curtis  
*GO Brooklyn* Editor

**T**his little piggy went to market, this little piggy stayed home, this little piggy had roast beef and this little piggy said, "We, we, we want to get out of these Timberland boots!"

This month, I finally freed my little piggies from their seemingly endless winter hibernation in snow boots with a Nu Soles deluxe pedicure (\$45) at the newly opened Nu Yu Day Spa in Clinton Hill.

But it wasn't just my feet that were pampered at this petite spa. I had arrived on its pretty tree-lined block exhausted and out of breath. The Nu Yu staff warmly greeted me when I entered. There wasn't a wait at check-in, my coat was whisked away, and I was offered a cup of tea and a seat. Nu Yu, filled with

natural light, furniture in warm, dark woods and fresh flowers, has an upbeat, cheerful professionalism that's irresistible.

I was soon led up to the comfortable pedicure station, a long tapestry-covered banquette that can accommodate three customers at a time. This high perch offered a bird's-eye view of the spa, while allowing maximum privacy for my shy, mistreated feet.

Nu Soles is a one-hour treatment that includes exfoliation, massage and a mask as well as the usual grooming and polishing.

Nail technician Martha Sanchez began by bathing my feet in a tub full of bubbly, salted water.

Co-owner Felicia Fonrose asked me if I had been disappointed that the footbaths don't have jets, but the truth is, I wasn't. Fonrose has ensured that her services encompass the human touch over the mechanical, and she made the



Coming up 'roses: Nu Yu Day Spa co-owner Felicia Fonrose aims to pamper and relax every client who enters her new business.

right choice.

Throughout the pedicure, Sanchez had been expertly massaging — with a firm but gentle touch — my feet and calves while applying the creams, oils and peppermint-scented exfoliating scrub. The highlight was the marine mask full

of hydrating sea extracts, conditioning mineral clays and soothing botanicals, which Sanchez slathered on my feet and calves, then wrapped in plastic and swathed in heated, moist towels. This was followed by a massage that erased any stubborn, lingering tension from every last

toe, and finished with an application of polish.

"People come in here expecting the usual pedicure, and it's not," said Fonrose. "They're so relaxed, I come right over to help them step down." While my polish dried, Sanchez surprised me with a neck and shoulder massage that I didn't even know I needed.

And this is just one Nu Yu option. Fonrose said she had a bit on her hands with the all-natural, homemade chocolate scrub her staff used for Valentine's Day-themed treatments and she'll likely bring that back for a permanent spot on her treatment menu.

Fonrose, 37, and her partner Jacqueline Peters, 34, became friends while toiling for seven years at Goldman Sachs, but Fonrose said that after Sept. 11, 2001, the women decided to leave the corporate arena and spend the rest of their careers following their passion — beautifying and pampering their neighbors.

Fonrose says she's careful to stock quality products and eschews smelly, aerosol quick-dry sprays or acrylic nails in favor of natural products like almond oil or scent-less silk wraps.

The duo began by studying to be nail technicians, and then their dream quickly blossomed into a desire to offer an array of spa services from a long list of facials to massages, including those for mommies-to-be. (Body treatments, which don't require a shower, will be added to the menu soon by aesthetician Sorala Barbosa.)

With the help of the Pratt Area Community Council, they secured this space with one airy, See **NU YU** on page 11

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On Sunday, February 29, 2004, at 3 PM, Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music presents the fifth concert in its 16th season, and the 98th since its founding in 1988, at the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, at Lafayette Avenue and South Oxford Street, in Brooklyn, four short blocks from the Brooklyn Academy of Music.



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# A perfect 10

Spa-worthy scrubs, oils and moisturizers to use at home

By Lisa J. Curtis  
GO Brooklyn Editor

## When life gives you lemons

**Lemon & Jojoba Cuticle Oil:** Bottle has a dropper instead of a brush to apply this subtly lemon-scented oil — skin to lemon meringue pie — that is quickly gobbled up by toes and fingers. Economically priced, it's perfect for daily use by gals with fake nails. 2 fl. oz. \$7, Carol's Daughter.

## Olive skin

**Olive oil soap:** This mildly olive oil-scented soap made by the Salem family in Lebanon from natural ingredients can be used on the hair and the body. Cleans gently without stripping moisture from skin. About 8 oz., \$3, Tripoli Restaurant.

## Out of this world

**GM Collin Daily Ceramide Comfort Ultra-derm:** This flying saucer is full of capsules of scentless essential lipid complexes that are quickly absorbed into the skin and immediately leave a face feeling soft as velvet. 75 capsules/.84 oz., \$69.25, Pilo Arts Day Spa & Salon.

## Almond crunch

**Repêchage Honey and Almond Scrub:** This gentle scrub smells like warm, sweetened oatmeal cereal when applied. It can be left on longer for a deep-cleansing mask or rinsed off for quick smoothing and cleansing. 3 oz., \$22, Pilo Arts Day Spa & Salon.

## Fat you'll like

**Sonya Dakar Omega-3 Repair Complex:** Don't let the fatty acids scare you away. This earthy-scented serum in a pump smooths irritated skin and leaves a healthy glow. .5 oz., \$35, D'Mai Urban Spa.

## Intoxicating hair

**Mimosa Hair Honey:** Wonderful fruity-floral scent is released when the herb and flower infused shea butter, corn oil and beeswax concoction melts with the heat from your fingertips. Adds shine and fragrance to hair and controls frizzies. 21.5 oz., \$25, Carol's Daughter.

## Smooth as silk

**Nourishing Moisture Silk:** Use this fragrant, but otherwise undetectable, mixture of essential oils and Vitamins A, C and E over moisturizer to retain moisture and smooth fine lines. 1 oz., \$35, The HomeSpa.



## Country time

**GM Collin Time Corrector Eyelid Gel Cream:** This moisturizing, soothing pump full of gel-cream, smelling faintly of sweetened iced tea, can be used on both eyelids and lip contour to minimize fine lines. .8 oz., \$47, Pilo Arts Day Spa & Salon.

## Freeze-dried from France

**Oligomer Lyophilized Sea Water Bath by Phyto:** Pouch of French sea salt doesn't have bubbles or perfume, but it offers a 20-minute long bathtub full of much needed relaxation for the muscles, revitalization for the skin and peace of mind. 1.4 oz. packet, \$20, Cynergy Spa.

## Not too complex

**Repêchage Hydro Complex PFS:** Unscented, luxurious moisturizer is swiftly absorbed by the face and can be used twice a day (although it doesn't have sunscreen) to combat dehydration from March winds and other climactic stressors. Cutest little spoon included. 2 oz., \$45, Pilo Arts Day Spa & Salon.

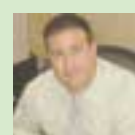
See the Spa Directory on page 12 for spa and store locations.

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## SPADIRECTORY

Listed below are Brooklyn spas and the services and products they offer. Unless otherwise noted, a basic facial and basic massage are one-hour treatments.

**Area Treatment Center/Emporium**  
252 Smith St. at Douglas Street in Cobble Hill (718) 522-1906, www.areaobrooklyn.com

Basic: one-hour facial: \$90; basic one-hour massage: \$85. Dr. Hauschka and Jurlique products. Offer facials, massages (including prenatal) and body treatments. Receive a free yoga class on day of treatment. Special packages available. Service take place at 275 Smith St. between Duane and Sackett streets, but clients check in at 252 Smith St. MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover. Open daily.

**Blush Salon Spa**  
675 Third Ave. at 67th Street in Bay Ridge (718) 921-4678.  
Basic: facial: \$65; basic massage: \$72. Open since April 2002, this full-service salon and spa offers body treatments, facials, massages, microdermabrasion, haircuts and color, Japanese hair straightening, waxing, manicures, pedicures, nail tips and extensions including Light Curing Gel, and waxing. Mixed products, facials and massages. MasterCard, Visa and American Express. Closed Mondays.

**Chez Madlen Beauty Center Day Spa**  
918 Kings Highway at East Ninth Street in Sheepshead Bay (718) 339-0222, (718) 336-1611.  
Basic: facial: \$50; basic massage: \$36. Full-service salon and spa offering facials, massages, haircuts and color, manicures, pedicures, facials, waxing and makeup application. Nexus Phyto-organic product. Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Closed Saturdays.

**Creative Hair and Spa**  
326 Ninth St. at 5th Avenue in Park Slope (718) 788-0796.  
Basic: facial: \$50; basic massage: \$50. Open since 1985, offer hair cut and color, skin care, permanent makeup, manicures, pedicures, nail sculpting, massage treatments and body treatments. Gift certificates and gift packages available. MasterCard, Visa and Discover. Open daily.

**Cynergy Spa**  
87 Fort Greene Place at Fulton Street in Fort Greene (718) 403-9240, www.cynergyspa.com

Basic: facial: \$80; basic massage: \$90. This new spa with self-proclaimed "African-American flair" opened in February 2003. It is the sister spa of Cynergy Spa in Harlem and has a make-up counter, Jacuzzi, spacious treatment rooms and a spacious lounge on the second floor. Services include facials, microdermabrasion, massages, manicures, pedicures, body treatments and waxing. Phytoner products. American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Closed Sundays.

**David James A Salon & Day Spa**  
6171 Strindberg Ave. at Mill Avenue in Mid West (718) 444-4040.  
Basic: facial: \$60; basic massage: \$45. Open since 1967, this full-service salon and spa has eight treatment rooms and offers facials, massages, body treatments, manicures, pedicures, hair care, laser hair removal, electrolysis, microdermabrasion, photo facials, waxing and Botox. Full retail product and makeup counter. Specialize in bridal hair and makeup. Phytoner and Peter Thomas Roth products. American Express, MasterCard, Visa and Discover. Closed Mondays.

**Diana Day Spa**  
1577 McDonald Ave. at Avenue M in Midwood (718) 787-9191, www.diana-dayspa.com.  
Basic: facial: \$60; basic massage: \$60. Open since March 2003, this spa offers manicures, pedicures, facials, massages, waxing, lash and brow tinting and body treatments. American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Open daily.

**Diva Salon & Spa**  
72 Henry St. at Orange Street in Brooklyn Heights (718) 222-0000.  
Basic: facial: \$50; basic massage: \$50. Open for five years, this full-service salon offers facials, massages, haircut and color, Japanese hair straightening, manicures, pedicures, makeup application, permanent makeup and waxing. Visa and MasterCard. Open daily.

**D'mal Urban Spa**  
157 Fifth Avenue at 15th Street in Park Slope (718) 398-7200, www.dmal-urbanspa.com.  
Basic: facial: \$80; basic massage: \$85. Offers massage therapy, facials, body treatments, electrolysis, manicure and waxing. D'Mal, which opened in February 2004, has five treatment rooms and carries Sonya Dakar products and American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Closed Mondays.

**DownTime Day Spa**  
115 North Seventh St. at Barry Street in Williamsburg (718) 718-9680, www.downtimepa.com

Basic: facial: \$75; basic massage: \$75. Offers an array of facials, facial microdermabrasion, body treatments, massages, reflexology, full-service hair salon, manicures, pedicures and airbrush tanning. MasterCard, Visa and American Express. Garden available in season. Closed Mondays.

**Elan Salon & Day Spa**  
1050 Avenue C at Bedford Place in Park Slope (718) 789-1700.  
Basic: facial: \$50; basic massage: \$60. Offers haircuts and color, waxing, manicures and pedicures, facials, electrolysis, eyelash and eyebrow tint, ear piercing and body treatments. Visa and American Express. Open daily.

**Golds's Clinic**  
265 Avenue U at Lake Street in Greenpoint (718) 265-2499, www.goldsclinic.com.  
Basic: facial: \$70; basic massage: \$80. Open since 1999, Gold's Clinic offers facials, massages, body treatments, laser hair removal and permanent makeup. La Roche Posay and Garnier products. American Express, Visa and MasterCard. Closed Saturdays.

**The HomeSpa**  
300 Court St. at Douglas Street in Cobble Hill (718) 526-8668, and The HomeSpa Annex, 532 Court St. at Huntington Street in Carroll Gardens (718) 526-8722, www.homespa.com.  
Basic: 75-minute facial: \$85; basic 75-minute massage: \$85. The HomeSpa uses their own brand of products and the Dermagloss line. Four treatment rooms at 300 Court St. and two treatment rooms at The HomeSpa Annex at 532 Court St. Both locations offer facials, massages, body treatments and waxing. Discount available when using The HomeSpa Gift Card. Services for facial and body. MasterCard, Visa and Discover. American Express. Open daily.

**The HomeSpa**  
The HomeSpa is a retail store carrying The HomeSpa product line and room at 46 Bergen St. at Smith Street (718) 596-3330.  
The HomeSpa is in Jacob, Costa Rica, is located in the Hotel Mar De Luz (www.mardealuz.com). For reservations, call +506-481-0802 or +506-463-2295.

**Il Camellion Salon and Day Spa**  
326 Seventh Ave. at Eighth Street in Park Slope (718) 788-7000.  
Basic: facial: \$85; basic massage: \$80. Uses Aveda products in its services and offers haircuts and color, massage therapy, facials, body treatments, waxing, manicures and pedicures, laser hair removal, up facial and IR treatments, microdermabrasion, chemical peels, permanent makeup, eyelid removal, tattoo removal and Rejuvena treatment. Physician's Choice of Arizona, MD. www.aveda.com.

**InnerSpree Day Spa**  
203 Grand St. at Bedford Avenue in Williamsburg (718) 599-2377, www.innerespa.com.  
Basic: facial: \$65; basic massage: \$60. Full-service hair salon and spa offers permanent makeup, electrolysis, skin care, facials, massages (including mommy-to-be), waxing, silk wraps for nails, manicures and pedicures, GM Collin and Creative Spa products. Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Closed Mondays.

**Irene Dinov**  
119 Montague St. at Hicks Street in Brooklyn Heights (718) 655-0900.  
Basic: facial: \$70; basic massage: \$80. Open since July 2003, this full-service salon and spa offers hair care, manicures, pedicures, body treatments, facials and massages. Private parties available. American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Open Sundays for private parties only. Closed Mondays.

**Lifestyles for Body & Soul Beautifying Spa**  
142 Avenue C at Grand Street in Park Slope (718) 797-3362.  
Basic: facial: \$70; basic massage: \$70. This full-service hair salon and spa offers packages and a wide array of treatments including manicures, pedicures, facials, electrolysis, fruit peel, makeup application, waxing, tanning, variety of massages (including pre-natal) and body wraps. MasterCard and Visa. Closed Sundays.

**Magnolia Day Spa**  
124 Bedford Ave. at North 10th Street in Williamsburg (718) 599-0700, www.magnoliadayspa.com.  
Basic: facial: \$50; basic massage: \$55. Opened July 2003, this spa offers facials, massages, manicures, pedicures, body treatments, bronzing application, microdermabrasion and waxing. Dior and Glymed product line. MasterCard and Visa. Closed Sundays.

**Millennium Lifestyles**  
7400 18th Ave. at 18th Street in Bensonhurst (718) 521-5438, www.mylifestyles.com.  
Basic: facial: \$60; basic massage: \$80. Offers facials, massages, laser hair removal, up facial and IR treatments, microdermabrasion, chemical peels, permanent makeup, eyelid removal, tattoo removal and Rejuvena treatment. Physician's Choice of Arizona, MD.

**Mo'Nails Day Spa**  
319 59th Ave. at Second Street in Park Slope (718) 965-9149.  
Basic: facial: \$40; basic massage: \$50. Offers European style massages, facials, body wraps, waxing, manicures, pedicures and electrolysis. Rejuvena products. MasterCard and Visa. Closed Mondays.

**Sapphire Spa**  
9220 Fourth Ave. at 92nd Street in Bay Ridge (718) 491-0264.  
Basic: facial: \$40; basic massage: \$70 (with free manicure and pedicure). Opened in May 2003, this spa offers massages, facials, body treatments, hair and nail services, steam room and waxing. GM Collin products. MasterCard and Visa. Open daily.

**Shibumi**  
(at Eastern Athletic Club)  
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**Romali**  
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Basic: facial: \$40; basic massage: \$50. Offers European style massages, facials, body wraps, waxing, manicures, pedicures and electrolysis. Rejuvena products. MasterCard and Visa. Closed Mondays.

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**Tapestry**



# read-to-logix

## Cynergy and Tendrils partner up in Fort Greene

By Lisa J. Curtis  
GO Brooklyn Editor

For a luxurious spa experience follow the gilded railings to the entrance of Fort Greene's Cynergy Spa. This little sister of Harlem's Cynergy Spa was opened in 2003, but there's nothing small or diminutive about the Brooklyn location.

Owner Cynthia Grace says customers from as close as downtown Manhattan and from as far as Long Island are making pilgrimages to Cynergy.

"Fort Greene is an artistic sort of place, it has a little bit of a bohemian feel," said Grace. "Practitioners in the community work here, too, bringing an earthy, spiritual sort of feel. They have great hands and great energy."

"Our staff is multicultural: European, Asian, Latino, African-American, South American—it's like a little United Nations."

In April, Tendrils Hair Spa, which owner Diane Bailey bills as a "wellness salon for hair," will open in Cynergy's basement. Bailey's hair salon burned down last year after 16 years on Vanderbilt Avenue between Myrtle and 14th. She brings 30 years of experience toiling over the heads of Brooklynites to this hair spa, where, in addition to manipulating hair through twisting, natural cuts and braiding, she said she'll be focusing on treatments: scalp treatments, aromatherapy, a lot of steam treatments, shampoo massaging and herbal treatments.

But don't look to Bailey's hair spa for chemical treat-

ments—it's all-natural. Tendrils will use products by Capelli's Daughter, Afro Diva Collection and Elemental Bliss, a line by Bedford-Stuyvesant resident Eddie Simpson.

"Cynthia and I are providing very similar services for the same price," said Bailey. "She's doing one part of the body, and I'm doing the other."

Among Cynergy's architectural highlights are two floors of spacious treatment rooms—some large enough to accommodate couples, or friends for side-by-side services; a Jacuzzi; a sauna; and a large, elegant second-floor lounge with tables and chairs, animal print decorative accents and branches for curtains.

Queens artist Ingrid Van Shipley created a mural along the staircase and the entrance of her Midas touch studio. Whether the Cynergy client prefers a room with fireplace flickering with candlelight or a room with exposed brick walls

aglow with natural light, this spa offers both a variety of treatments and settings.

"We know a lot about skin-care for African-Americans; they have unique needs," said Grace. "There aren't a lot of folks in the field with that focus. But we provide services for everyone's needs."

Cynergy's menu offers facials, microdermabrasion, massages, manicures, pedicures, body treatments and waxing. And Grace says she's pretty handy with the makeup brushes, too, for women who'd like a dramatic transformation for that night out.

Nature's bounty is also employed in Cynergy's treatments.

"We hand-make our scrubs using avocado, honey and mango, a lot of fresh fruits, especially in the summer," said Grace. "I love avocado. We use it in a mask and scrub. It's delicious, moisturizing, conditioning and it smells great. The scrubs are made per client, so that's what I do what the clients like and need."

But Cynergy doesn't stop at the skin. In its search for healing treatments.

They use a packet of France's sea salt for a "sea coat," and salt water. "It's the best seawater you can get from Phytomer, which means 'plant of the sea.' It produces very intense treatments and the wrap takes a little over an hour."

But the rewards are more than skin deep, says the Cynergy psychologist, "You go in, in a funky mood and you come out, feeling much better."

See **Spa Directory** on page 12 for more information about Cynergy Spa.

## Spa Report

# There's a

Sat, Feb 28

## PERFORMANCE

**RELEASE SHOW:** General Mags hosts a show to celebrate its record release, 5:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Office, 307 Thames St. (718) 418-2509.

**BARBERSHOP:** All-Black-owned barber music concert, 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Fullerton, 14th St. (718) 624-0878.

**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents Shakespeare's "Pericles," directed by Bartlett Shier, 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. BAM Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St. (718) 636-1200.

**GALAPAGOS ART SPACE:** presents "Smoking music with a twist," 8 p.m. Call for ticket info, 70 North 5th St. (718) 782-5188.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** presents the drama "Lobby Hero," 5:15, 5:12 children under 12 and seniors, 8 p.m. 199 14th St. (718) 595-0547.

**JAZZ:** Brooklyn Conservatory of Music celebrates life and work of poets James Weldon Johnson and Paul Laurence Dunbar. Program features "Sketches for Dunbar," 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. 58 Seventh Ave. (718) 622-3300.

**BROOKLYN PHILHARMONIC:** presents "Celebrating Don Quixote," with readings and life-sized puppets. Production combines elements of Japanese bunraku theater and shadow puppetry. Call for ticket info, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4102.

**LIBRARY EVENT:** Brooklyn Public Library presents "Shadow Magic Puppetry," 1 p.m. Grand Army Plaza, 12th St. (718) 622-7035.

**MUSICAL:** Brooklyn Family Theater presents "The Wizard of Oz," 8 p.m. Grandin Theater, Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 670-4500.

**BLACK HISTORY:** Ask and Pepper Mine Theater presents "Songs of Freedom: The Spirit," spoken word, poetry, gospel and music, 8 p.m. 30 South Oxford St. (718) 398-4979.

**FORT AWESOME:** presents "Unaccompanied Piano in 5...," Kyo Raita and other unique groups. Donation appreciated, 6 p.m. 490 Morgan Ave., East Williamsburg Industrial Park, www.toddjerry.com.

**TEEN PERFORMANCE:** Brooklyn Arts Exchange presents teenage drama and theater groups from throughout the NYC region, 5:30 contribution, 8 p.m. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 632-0048.

**THE NEXT:** National Theater of the United States of America presents "What's That in My Hand?" presents history of America through the lens of a trans-former game show, 8 p.m. Next Arts Complex, 88 Front St. (212) 615-4607.

**BCBC:** Brooklyn College of Performing Arts presents singer-songwriter Humphries, 5:30, 5:45, 5:55, 6 p.m. Walk Whitman Theater, Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4600.

**IMPACT THEATER:** presents "The Wild Duck," 5:15, 5:12 children under 12 and seniors, 8 p.m. 475 Third Ave. (212) 520-0796.

**JAZZ:** Papa Woz's Pirates and Troubadours play, \$20 plus \$5 mini-

mun per set, 9 p.m. 11 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. Over Jazz Cafe, 351 Flatbush Ave. (718) 396-5413.

**BABES BAR:** Life in a Blender's Blow-hole Winterlude. Band in a bistro-style theatrical show, 8 p.m. to 2 p.m. Also, Bill Cerny's Jay Addicts, 9 p.m. 376 14th St. (718) 624-0878.

**COMEDY:** Brooklyn Brew-Ha-Ha at the Boudoir Bar, 5:30 admission, two-drink minimum, 9:30 p.m. 273 Smith St. (718) 624-0878.

**ROCK:** Cleveland has several groups, 10:30 p.m. Bennett's Bar, 7102 Flk. Hamilton Parkway (718) 745-9401.

**FAMILY MOVIE:** Brooklyn Public Library, Central branches, presents "The Little Mermaid," 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 622-7035.

**ARTY FACTS:** Brooklyn Museum of Art invites kids to "Painters are Everywhere," 5:15 adults, free for kids, 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. 100 5th Ave. (718) 622-7035.

**PUPPETWORKS:** "Jack and the Beanstalk," 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. 100 5th Ave. (718) 622-7035.

**PLATFORM:** Actor Central speaks on "Progressive Politics in Hard Times," 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West, (718) 768-0972.

**BUSINESS BRUNCH:** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Superfine Restaurant, 126 Front St. (718) 622-7035.

**PLANT TALK:** Brooklyn Botanic Garden offers a talk "Plant Facts and Fictions," 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. 100 Washington Ave. (718) 622-7035.

**OCULARS FILM:** presents its weekly cinema, tonight, "The Deuce," 5:15 p.m. Gilgallat Art Space, 70 North 5th St. (718) 782-5188.

**DIY:** Experimental and psychedelic, tonight with Sheldon Holke and DJ Spinoza, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. 227 Smith St. (718) 782-5188.

**COMMUNITY HEROES:** Progressive Brooklyn Synagogue hosts Beale and Olaf award-winning Crown Arts, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. 100 5th Ave. (718) 622-7035.

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**DOO WOP NIGHT:** Brooklyn HS presents Capri, Kenny Wayne and The Emotions, 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. 199 Street and 10th Avenue, (718) 360-2587.

**SUN, FEB 29**

## PERFORMANCE

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**SUN, FEB 29**

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**JAZZ:** Papa Woz's Pirates and Troubadours play, \$20 plus \$5 mini-

# Compiled by Susan Rosenthal

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# City abuzz as 'Christ' opened Wednesday

By Lukas I. Alpert  
Associated Press

In a city known for its opinions, New Yorkers did not let the opening of the film "The Passion of the Christ" go unnoticed Wednesday, with demonstrations both supporting and denouncing the movie all over town.

In a New York tradition, when controversy swirls into the city, New Yorkers roll out the soapboxes. From the Anti-Defamation League to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, everybody had an opinion about Mel Gibson's film depicting the last hours of Jesus' life.

Curtis Sliwa, founder of the Guardian Angels, joined the New York Board of Rabbis and the Catholic League for

Religious and Civil Rights outside an East Side screening to express his concern.

"I can see how enemies of Jews, especially in other cultures and countries, could seize on this to support their anti-Semitism," Sliwa said. "A Christian watching this is confronted with a dilemma. You see pain and suffering — without anger or retaliation."

"In the end, the message is forgive them Lord, for they know not what they do. That's the hard part."

The Rev. Philip Eichner, chairman of the League's board of directors, called the film "a powerful rendition of the last 12 hours of Christ."

"I don't believe it's anti-Semitic," he said. "And it wasn't Jesus who killed Jews, the Jewish authorities did because

Jesus challenged them."

The Anti-Defamation League, which spoke out early on with concerns about the film, said they felt the film's commercial success still retained the message that Jews were to blame for the death of Jesus Christ.

"The bad news is that the film continues to be shown with its unambiguous message blaming the Jews," said ADL National Director Abraham Foxman. "He made a choice and that was to blame the Jews."

Foxman said he was particularly worried about the film's release in other countries with Jewish populations, where there has been less pre-film debate about what the movie says.

"We know the power of images, and we know the power of a star with a reputation

around the world, and this concerns us," he said.

Even PETA sounded in, but actually in support of the film which they said underscored the brutality of violence, whether directed at humans or animals.

"It points out our belief in the unacceptability of violence and how animals suffer the same pain humans do," said Corinne Ferraro, 29, of Hoboken, N.J., as she handed out pamphlets on Christianity and vegetarianism outside a theater near Union Square.

For the members of the New Black Panther Party who gathered outside a West Side theater, the film's problems were obvious: Jesus wasn't white.

"We call this the greatest story never told," said Divine Allah, a youth minister in the

group's Trenton, N.J., chapter, citing a biblical verse that describes Jesus with woolly hair and brown skin.

Allah said his group thinks that Jewish groups are right to be angry about the way they are portrayed in the film, although "that's fact."

None of the nine protesters

actually saw the film.

Demonstrations aside, everyone had something to say. "People take away whatever they believe. If they had prejudices already, they were that way before the movie," said Fran Orrickento, of Wadsworth, as she left a screening in suburban Westbury.

Her husband, Tom Orrickento, agreed.

"I think the story's really about what one man will do to another one. It's good and evil. People inherently are good and evil. There are good Jews and Jesus was a Jew."

"The Passion" opened on Ash Wednesday in more than

3,000 theaters — an unusually large release for a religious film with English subtitles to translate the Latin and Aramaic in its characters speak. Directed, produced and co-written by Gibson, the film received mixed reviews from critics.

— with Verena Dobnik and Madison J. Gray

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**FIRE...**

*Continued from page 1*

tions. The buildings, zoned for manufacturing, had been illegally converted to loft apartments and many were deemed to be unsafe and in violation of fire codes when the tenants were locked out. A month before the evictions, Gutman had applied for a change of zoning to residential use.

Then-Councilman Ken Fisher advocated on behalf of the tenants and Gutman resolved the violations, allowing them to return to their apartments two months later. Gutman eventually arranged to buy out the tenants.

In 1982, when 247 Water St. was used as a warehouse for spices and grains, the building was quarantined, sealed under giant tarpaulins and fumigated when an infestation of khapra beetles was discovered.

"It looks like a very sad building from here with all the windows busted," said Monique Denoncin, a former president of the Vinegar Hill Neighborhood Association, who has lived in the neighborhood for 22 years. "It's another piece of property that the neighborhood is losing."

Gutman also owns a vacant lot on the corner of Bridge and Front streets that is adjacent to the scene of the fire.

**FRIDAYS...**

*Continued from page 1*

While Bankoff opted to reserve judgement until viewing an official plan, he said that many chain stores, including Banana Republic and the Gap, had been "very sympathetic" to historic buildings.

Still, that did little to reassure Brooklyn Heights Association executive director Judy Stanton, who said, "Informal food does not seem to fit the ambience of Gage & Toller."

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**Lucky find**

Richard Maratea kneels in lobby of his building at 553 80th St. in Bay Ridge at spot where he found an abandoned newborn baby girl Monday. The baby was listed in stable condition at Lutheran Medical Center.

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